

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 and 11-13 are pending. By this Amendment, Claims 1, 8 and 11 are amended. Because support for the amendments can be found in the originally filed application such as, for example, in previously pending Claim 10, page 11, line 25 to page 12, line 15, and Table 1.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter is presented herein.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1-6, 8, 10-11 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, 2nd paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicants have amended the claims in a manner believed to be responsive to the rejection.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-6, 8 10-11 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,349,782 to Sekiya et al. (Sekiya). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection for the following reason(s).

Claim 1 recites a hybrid vehicle including an engine for driving main driving wheels; a plurality of motors for driving sub driving wheels; a first speed reduction member disposed between a sub motor and a main motor; a second speed reduction member disposed between the main motor and the sub driving wheels; a first clutch connecting the sub motor and the main motor, the first clutch including the first speed reduction member; and a second clutch connecting the main motor and the sub driving wheels, the second clutch including the second speed reduction member, wherein only

the second clutch is connecting the main motor and the sub driving wheels or the first clutch is connecting the sub motor and the main motor and the second clutch is connecting the main motor and the sub driving wheels.

Applicants respectfully submit that Sekiya fails to disclose or suggest each and every feature recited by Claim 1.

For example, Applicants note that Sekiya discloses a pair of direct current motors M_L , M_R , wherein each motor M_L and M_R is individually connected to a single drive shaft. Specifically, direct current motor M_L is connected only to left drive shaft 4_L , while direct current motor M_R is connected only to right drive shaft 4_R . Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that Sekiya does not disclose a first speed reduction member disposed between a sub motor and a main motor, and/or a first clutch connecting the sub and main motors, wherein the first clutch includes the first speed reduction member; and/or a second clutch connecting the main motor and the sub driving wheels, wherein the second clutch includes a second speed reduction member. Rather, Sekiya discloses a pair of motors that are always connected to their corresponding drive shaft.

The invention recited by Claim 1 either uses only the second clutch to connect the corresponding features recited therein, or uses both the first and second clutches to connect the corresponding features recited therein.

Applicants submit that Sekiya does not disclose, teach or otherwise suggest each and every feature recited by Claim 1.

To qualify as prior art under 35 U.S.C. §102, each and every feature recited by a rejected claim must be disclosed or suggested by the applied art of record. As explained above, Sekiya does not disclose, teach or otherwise suggest each and every

feature recited by Claim 1. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1 is not anticipated by or rendered obvious in view of Sekiya and should therefore, be deemed allowable.

Applicants note Claims 2-6, 8 and 11-13 depend from Claims 1. It is respectfully submitted that these dependent claims be deemed allowable at least for the same reasons Claims 1 is allowable, as well as for the additional subject matter recited therein.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

Rejoinder of Claims 7 & 9

Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 7 and 9 depend from allowable Claim 1 and should be rejoined as permitted by 37 C.F.R. §1.141.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application, withdrawal of the outstanding rejections, allowance of Claims 1-9 and 11-13, and the prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowability are respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension, together with any additional fees that may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to counsel's Deposit Account No. 01-2300, **referencing docket number 107355-00087.**

Respectfully submitted,


Murat Ozgu
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 44,275

Customer No. 004372

ARENT FOX PLLC
1050 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.,
Suite 400
Washington, D.C. 20036-5339
Tel: (202) 857-6000
Fax: (202) 638-4810

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